

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
May 09, 2022
6:00 P.M.**

INVOCATION: Keith Stone

PLEDGE: Mayor Pro-Tem John Clayton

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro-Tem John Clayton

ROLL CALL: Members of the City Council present included Mayor Pro-Tem John Clayton, Councilmen Antonio Carter, Eric Gaither, Rodrick Smith, Shane Willis and Councilwoman Amy Garner

STAFF PRESENT: Peter Schultz, Brandon Rice, Police Chief Edwards, Rudolph Smith and City Attorney Tim Tanner

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING(s): Alderman Gaither made the motion to adopt the minutes from the previous meeting. Alderman Willis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA:

Alderman Carter made the motion to adopt the agenda with the removal of item number five. Alderwoman Garner seconded the motion to adopt the formal agenda with the change and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1- Canine Lease Agreement:** Chief Edwards told the group Officer Beeson acquired a new canine, Diesel. Diesel has just received his national certificate for narcotics detection and patrol with tracking and apprehension. Since March 1st to May 3rd Diesel has been deployed 8 times and resulted in positive indications by Diesel all 8 times. From these deployments Diesel has detected 15 different narcotics including Marijuana, Methamphetamines, Cocaine and drug paraphernalia which resulted in 9 arrests. With all of that being said Team Beeson and Diesel have proven to be an asset to Nashville's Police Department. The lease agreement between Team Beeson and Diesel and Nashville Police Department needs to be adopted. Which means the City needs to lease canine Diesel from Officer Beeson for \$1.00 so that Diesel becomes property of the City of Nashville thereby he can be covered under the City liability insurance, personal injury, property damage and death in the line of duty as well as injuries resulting in his ability to perform his duties or retirement. Officer Beeson has paid the initial \$15,000.00 to train Canine Diesel and because the City insurance can't name Officer Beeson as beneficiary, the City will receive those funds and pay Officer Beeson the \$15,000.00. Since the amount is more than \$10,000.00 the City Attorney Tim Tanner wanted to bring this before the Council. The agreement reads Should Diesel be killed or injured which would render him unable to perform his duties and would result in retirement in the line of duty then the City will pay Officer Beeson the full amount of \$15,000.00. Tim Tanner stated the lease is for one year and can be renewed each year. It also gives either party thirty days with written notice to cancel the lease agreement. Alderman Carter asked Chief Edwards if Office Beeson will be responsible for Diesel future training and upkeep? Tim Tanner said Officer Beeson will be responsible. Alderman Willis made the motion to accept the lease agreement between the City of Nashville and Officer Beeson and Canine Diesel. The motion was seconded by Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2- Georgia Transportation Institutional Bank Approval –** Peter Shultz told the group the GTIB loan agreement has been received. The amount of the loan is \$600,000.00 grant and \$249,000.00 loan the City received to pave the roads in

Nashville. Council needs to sign the agreement so we can start moving forward with the process. Alderman Carter made the motion to approve the Mayor Pro-Tem signing the GTIB approval. Alderman Sith seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Peter Schultz told the group the project should be underway mid -summer.

3- Water Tower Maintenance Contract- Peter Schultz told the group at the last meeting the Council was presented with a Water Tower Contract from American Tank Maintenance and we need to make a motion to move forward or not. Alderman Gaither made the motion to move forward with the contract. Alderwoman Garner seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

4- Commercial Racing Ordinance- Tim Tanner read the Amendment for the Ordinance for the Commercial Racing. Council chose out of two amendments presented at the last meeting. Section 15-407- Sunday Special Events Excepted – It shall not be a violation of this ordinance if the owner or operator of a commercial racetrack applies for and is granted a Sunday Special Event permit by the office of the City Manager. Sunday Special Event Permits shall only be available for Sundays. The Permit shall allow the owner or operator to have racing activities on Sunday between the hours of 1:00 p.m.-8:00p.m. Any owner or operator seeking a Sunday Special Event permit shall apply for same, at minimum, two weeks prior to the date sought. In addition, if inclement weather prevents or will prevent the operation of the commercial racing Facility on any Saturday, the owner or operator may seek a permit under this section by informing the City Manager and Police Chief in writing. The two-week advanced notice requirements do not apply to permits requested for inclement weather. Regardless of the reason, no more than eight(8) Sunday Special Events permits can be granted to the same commercial racetrack in any calendar year. Alderwoman Garner made a motion to amend the time be changed from 8:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. under section 15-1407 Sunday Special Events Excepted. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gaither and the motion carried unanimously. Alderman Carter mad the motion to accept the Amended Section 15-407 Sunday Special Events Excepted to the Commercial Race Trac Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gaither and the motion carried unanimously.

5- CBDG Engineer Approval- Peter Schultz told the group he spoke to Mike Jacobs with the RDC about not applying for this year and applying for it next year . Mr. Jacobs recommended having the engineer approval because the approval is good for two years and we will already have the Engineer on board once we get approval for next year. Peter said he John Reynolds and Brandon Rice graded the Engineers by locality, familiarity with the City and their overall cost. The one we chose was Coastal Engineering. Alderman Gaither made the motion to approve Coastal Engineering for the next CBDG. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Report:

Rudolph Smith told the group he is still working on the financial report. Right now, the bank statements are reconciled through March and at the next meeting we will provide those reports and possibly April's will be completed. The City has three open positions, Main Street, Code Enforcement, and Parks and Rec. We need to have these positions advertised. Mr. Smith shared his concerns about the Code Enforcer position and how complex this position can be. The tax digest numbers

are not back yet from this year but we are comfortable with the figures from last year's tax digest. This year's digest will not be completed until July. The Budget workshop is set for tomorrow at 5:30. The budget was sent to each of you by email and a hard copy is in your mail box. If you have any questions or concerns please try and get those back before the meeting. We have two of our key people will be out tomorrow due to certifications, but they will have their phones turned on in case we have questions for them. Mr. Smith asked the insurance agency for a total of compensation on each employee, so they know their how much the City pays toward their insurance and retirement. The reason for this is so the employee knows their true salary. Mr. Smith also updated the Council about the agreement the County had with the City on the light bill for the park on the Adel Hwy. Unfortunately, the County has not paid any light bills for the last two years. Once I alerted Ms. Brenda at the County, she said she was going to look into these bills and hopefully they will return the back pay on them. Peter Schultz and Cindy Mitchell Found a discrepancy in the jail log bill. Apparently, they were overcharging the City to house their prisoners for several months. Peter Schutz met with the Sheriff and he is going to get the bill straighten out and possibly we will receive a refund or not be charged for our prisoners for several months to make up for the discrepancy. On June 13th through June 17th the budget will be displayed for the public display at City Hall and on the website. The Public Hearing will be on July 11th so the public can have input and ask questions. On July 25th we will Adopt the Budget for 2023-2024. Mr. Smith spoke about the City Hall being short handed and how much a back up is needed for the front office and how much we are in need of a in house finance person.

City Attorney Report: Tim Tanner told the Council he will hopefully have the IGA's ready by the next Council meeting and he will present them to the Council for adoption. We are in mid closing with the DDA will hopefully be completed soon.

Department Head's Report: Chief Edwards told the group that he did not want to leave out the rest of his officers or team and their progress we have made on drug bust with officers without a canine presence. Since January we have made 24 arrests for marijuana 22 for meth 2 for meth trafficking 3 for cocaine 1 mdma otherwise known as ecstasy 3 other dangerous drugs 4 restricted drugs or drugs not in proper containers or not prescribed to them 21 for dangerous drug objects. All of these arrests were done with the assistance of a canine. So, we are really attacking the drug problem in the City with or without the canine. Chief Edward spoke about License plate recognition systems. As you know we are very busy on the streets which means we can not be everywhere at once. Also, we have one officer per vehicle. Chief Edwards handed the Council some information on License Plate Systems. These license plate readers are a tremendous tool for the officers since each patrol car only has one set of eyes. The system uses a combination of cameras and computer software to scan the license plate of ever vehicle that passes the unit that has this system installed. The readers log the time and the date along with the GPS of the car in that moment and also includes picture of the car The device sends the data to computer software that can compare each tag against a designated hot list. These lists are devised by government agency's such as FBI, Homeland Security, State and County Municipal agencies from all over the United States. The data consist of things like no insurance , hit and run, aggravated assaults, robbery, to vehicle in connection to a murder, Drug trafficking, Human Trafficking, even those considered to be to be considered domestic or international terrorism. Also ,in an average year there have been 200 Amber Alerts which usually involves a child or children. 100 silver alerts for older Adults with dementia or memory loss. And even Blue alerts which will come to the Police department which is usually someone who is a violent criminal or escaped from a penitentiary. The City of Nashville is one of the few agencies that do not have at least one of these systems. Alapaha and Ray City have one of these systems and every Chief I have spoken with said the system pays for itself within a year. The quote for this system was based on Adel's system. We would only need a two-camera system. The total for the install and training is currently at \$14,116.00. This quote also includes a 5-year maintenance warranty however after the first year there is a \$500.00 fee for licensing and maintenance for each unit the system is installed into per year. Chief Edwards asked the Council to consider purchasing at least

two of these units for the City Police Department which will cost ruffly \$28,000.00. Alderman Carter agreed the system will be a great system to purchase. The Council and Chief Edward discussed the item and how it would benefit the Police Department.

Peter Schultz hand the Council paperwork from Aqua Aerobics and Consolidated for diffusers and filters for the waste water treatment plant which last 5 to 7 years we are going on 9 years. With the AARPA funds that are available we could purchase these items for the wastewater treatment plant. Once they are ordered the item will take 12 to 16 weeks to get them. The water department can do the install. The cost for everything and the shipping is \$25,690.00.

John Reynolds told everyone the water department is still trying to get the streets ready for the repaving.

.Public Comments: None

Council Comments: Mayor Pro-Tem Clayton commended the Police Department and Chief Edwards for all their hard work.

Executive Session Alderman Willis made the motion to go into executive Session at 7:00pm. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gaither and the motion carried unanimously.

Alderman Gaither made the motion to come out of executive session at 8:10 pm. The motion was seconded by Alderman Willis and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Pro-Tem Clayton called the group to order after the executive session with no action taken Alderman Gaither made the motion to make the swearing in Ceremony of the new Mayor on the 25th at 6:00pm The motion was seconded by Alderman Willis and the motion carried unanimously. Alderman Carter made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Alderman Smith seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

May 9, 2022.

Mayor Pro-Tem John Clayton

Councilman Eric Gaither

Councilman Rodrick Smith

Councilman Antonio Carter

Councilwoman Amy Garner

Councilman Shane Willis

ATTEST:

Tina Ward, City Clerk